NTPC and one by the Gujarat Electricity Board had been received. It has been decided to commit the requisite gas for these projects. Commitment of gas linkage for the Pipavav Project would be contingent on the level of outlays for the oil and gas sector as also the power sector in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Higher Charges for Gas Supplied to Industries in Gujarat

809. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry have demanded reduction in the prices of gas supplied to industries in that State;

(b) what are the prices charged from industries in Gujarat for supply the gas;

(c) what are the prices charged for supplying gas to the industries in Assam;

(d) whether it is a fact that prices charged in Assam for supplying gas to industries there are much less in comparison to that charged from the industries in Gujarat; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A uniform price of Rs. 1400 per thousand cubic metre of gas is being charged from industries in Gujarat w.e.f. 30-1-87 as per the price fixed by Government of India.

(c) to (e) From 30-1-87, the price being charged for gas in the North-Eastern Region is Rs. 1000/1000 M3 with a provision for discount of upto Rs. 500/1000 M3 (exclusive of royalty, levies etc.). The concessional price of gas in the North-Eastern Region is primarily in view of the lack of demand for gas in the region.

Royalty on Crude oil Produced in Gujarat

810. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to answer to Unstarred Question 747 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether any discussion has recently taken place between his Ministry and Gujarat Government regarding revision of rates of royalty for oil and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government of India had taken a decision revising the rates of royalty on crude oil from Rs. 192 per tonne to Rs. 314/- per tonne for the period 1.4.1987 to 31.3.1990 and to Rs. 374/- per tonne for the period 1.4.1990 to 31.3.1993. However, the Chief Minister of Gujarat has requested that the entire question of revision of royalty should be referred to a Committee for further examination. The request of Chief Minister of Gujarat is under consideration of the Government.

Mini-cement plants in Karnataka

811. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI VITHAL RAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many mini-cement plants in the small sector have been set up in Karnataka State:

(b) whether it is a fact that all these plants have availed C.R.I. technology:

(c) how many units are closed because of technology failure; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government for the revival of these units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) mini cement plants set up in Karnataka State have been reporting cement production to the Office of the Development Commissioner for Cement Industry.

(b) National Council for Cement & Building Materials (NCB) have informed that 18 plants based on CRI-MVSK technology are under operation and two other plants are under advanced stage of implementation.

(c) As per information received by NCB, a few CRI MVSK cement plants were closed for some time or the other. The main reasons were high cost of coke breeze and other inputs resulting in uneconomical operation and in some cases managerial problem. However, no plant based on CRI-MVSK technology has been closed as a result of technology failure and a large number of similar plants based on the same technology are successfully operating in Karnataka and other States.

(d) To improve the economic viability of mini cement plants, the rate of basic excise duty for mini-cement plants operating with vertical shaft kilns with a licensed capacity not exceeding 200 TPD and rotary kiln with licensed capacity not exceeding 300 TPD has been reduced to Rs. 90/- per tonne from Rs. 215 per tonne.

Oil exploration programme in Cauveri basin in Karnataka

812. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any oil exlopration programme has been carried out in the Cauveri Basin in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what are the results thereof and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Onland Karnataka (including the part of Cauvery river basin in the Karnataka State) is a 'shield area' which exposes igneous and metamorphic rocks of pre-Cambrian age. The area is devoid of sedimentary cover which is vital for generation and accumulation of Oil and Natural Gas.

Renovation of Bangalore Air port

813. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) for how long the proposal for renovation of Bangalore Airport is pending with the Ministry; and

(b) by when it is likely to be cleared and work to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) While no such proposal is pending with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the National Airports Authority are contemplating to modify and expand the existing airport building at Bangalore, in phases, so as to serve the needs of the passengers upto 2005 A.D. The commencement of the project would depend on the acquisition and handing over of adequate and suitable land to the National Airports Authority by the State Government.